

### REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Davidson. Claims 2-4, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson in view of Tanaka.

Applicants and applicants' counsel acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 5-7 and 11. To obtain allowance of this subject matter, new claims 12-17 have been added. Independent claim 12 is a revised version of allowable dependent claim 11 rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of independent claim 8. Independent claim 15 is a revised version of dependent claim 5 rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of independent claim 1. Dependent claims 12-14 and 16-17 are dependent upon claims 12 and 15, respectively, and recite various features of the disclosed embodiments.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 5 and 11, applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-17 are in allowable form.

Additionally, and for the reasons discussed hereinbelow, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art of record.

More specifically, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the novel features of the present invention by further reciting that a distance from an outer diameter of the display to an outer diameter of the rim member (claim 1) or second case member (claim 8) is  $(A + E + B + F)$ , wherein A is a width of a dial-plate (claim 1) or display (claim 8) bearing surface of the rim member (claim 1) or second case member (claim 8), E is a width of a screw hole in which a screw is inserted, B is a width of a recess in which a packing is inserted, and F is a width of bearing surfaces of the rim member and the barrel (claim 1) or first and second case members (claim 8).

As illustrated in Fig. 3 of the application drawings, a conventional wristwatch has a glass rim 21 fixed by machine screws and a female thread portion 21a provided outside the outer periphery of a waterproof packing 40 interposed between the glass rim 21 and a barrel 31. Accordingly, the distance from the outer diameter D1 of the dial plate to the outer diameter of the glass rim 21 is the sum of a width A of a dial plate bearing surface, a width D of a wall to which the waterproof packing 40 is mounted, a width B of a recess or box in which the waterproof packing 40 is provided, a wall thickness C of the recess, a width E of the

female thread portion, and a width F of bearing surfaces of the glass rim 21 and the barrel 31.

Accordingly, the distance from the outer diameter D1 of the dial plate to the outer diameter of the glass rim 21 in the conventional wristwatch is  $(A + D + B + C + E + F)$ .

Because the machine screws are provided outside the outer periphery of the waterproof packing, in order to maintain the barrel of the watch case and the glass rim waterproof, a width from an external periphery of the dial plate to the external periphery of the glass rim is relatively large.

The present invention provides a wristwatch in which the above-described dimension is smaller than that in the conventional wristwatch. In accordance with the present invention, the wristwatch has a glass rim for supporting a watch glass, a barrel which contacts an underside of the glass rim and contains a movement, a first packing provided between the glass rim and the barrel to ensure a waterproof seal therebetween, and screws disposed within an inner periphery of the packing to fix the barrel and the glass rim together. The screws are disposed inside of the first packing so that it is possible to provide a glass rim of a small diameter while ensuring a secure waterproof seal.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 4 of the application drawings, the distance from the outer diameter D1 of the dial plate to the glass rim 20 is  $(A + E + B + F)$ , wherein A is a width of the dial-plate bearing surface, E is a width of the female thread portion, B is a width of a recess for the waterproof packing 40, and F is a width of bearing surfaces of the glass rim 20 and the barrel 30.

Accordingly, unlike a conventional wristwatch, the sum of the width D of the wall to which the waterproof packing 40 is mounted and the thickness C of a wall of the recess -- that is,  $(D + C)$ , is eliminated from the width of the timepiece. Thus, it is possible to reduce an edge width of the glass rim 20 by the amount of  $(D + C)$ .

No corresponding structure is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

Neither Davidson nor Tanaka discloses a wristwatch having the claimed dimensions. For instance, the wristwatches illustrated in Figs. 1-5 of Davidson clearly have a far greater dimension from the outer periphery of the display to the outer periphery of the watch case than that recited by amended independent claims 1 and 8. Moreover, the "packing 22" relied upon by the Examiner does not maintain a waterproof seal between the rim member and the barrel as required by independent claims 1 and 8. Reference numeral 22 of Davidson

identifies a watch band which is disclosed as clamped by members 32, 34 to the watch case. Davidson does not disclose that the band 22 provides a waterproof or "packing" function and one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that a conventional watch band does not provide such a function. Furthermore, the screws 37 are inserted through holes formed in the band 22 and are not positioned inside the inner periphery of the band 22, which can be clearly seen in Fig. 3 of Davidson. Independent claims 1 and 8 require that the screws are positioned inside the periphery of the packing. Davidson fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Tanaka does not cure the foregoing defects. Tanaka was relied upon as disclosing waterproof packings for providing a seal between a screw and a screw hole. Tanaka does not disclose or suggest the dimensional limitations recited by amended independent claims 1 and 8.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 8 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record, and that claims 1-11 are in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, the application is now believed to be in condition for

allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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December 31, 2003

Date